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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the European Union I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Presidency of the European Union on recognition by European Union member States of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Giulio TERZI DI SANT'AGATA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on recognition by European Union member States of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

On behalf of the European Union, the Presidency expresses appreciation for the agreement signed yesterday by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the effect of settling their bilateral relations and exchanging diplomatic representatives at ambassadorial level. This development, which was considered important by the European Union, represents a substantial contribution to peace and stability in the region of the former Yugoslavia and opens the way to recognition by the member States, in accordance with their respective procedures, of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as one of the successor States to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The European Union will welcome further steps by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia leading the country to the full normalization of its relations with the international community.

The European Union considers that hereafter the development of good relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of its position within the international community will depend on a constructive approach by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the following:

- Mutual recognition among all the States of the former Yugoslavia, including between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The European Union urges the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia to overcome all remaining obstacles to mutual recognition and full normalization of relations without delay;

- Progress in the fulfilment of the commitments made in the Paris Peace Agreement, including cooperation with the International Tribunal;

- Agreement among all the States of the former Yugoslavia on succession issues;

- Full cooperation in implementing the Basic Agreement on Eastern Slavonia;

- Full respect for human rights, minority rights and the right to return of all refugees and displaced persons and the granting of a large degree of autonomy for Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The European Union places a particular emphasis on human rights and rights of national and ethnic groups. It recalls the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's commitments made in the Paris Peace Agreement and its agreement at the London Peace Implementation Conference to the continuation of the working group on ethnic and national minorities and communities with its present terms of reference. This group's mandate is to recommend initiatives for resolving ethnic questions in the former Yugoslavia on the basis of agreed principles concerning human rights and rights of national and ethnic groups. The European Union understands that the commitments in the Paris Peace Agreement and the acceptance of the continuation of this group by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia entail acceptance of these principles. This understanding is communicated to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and progress in implementing these principles will be carefully monitored.